

SITUATION REPORT NO. 38
INCIDENT NO. 99-009
DATE: October 22, 1999 TIME: 11:00 a.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, N.D. 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Storm and flooding – Above normal soil moisture content throughout North Dakota, compounded by seven years of flooding and additional precipitation, has resulted in overland, river and flash flooding and ground movement (landslides and mudslides). Excessive high winds associated with storm and tornado activity have contributed to ongoing problems faced by North Dakotans.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: On October 22, Devils Lake at Creel Bay measured 1,446.59 feet.
Crisis counselors have reported that disaster victims are feeling apprehensive about the possibility of continued flood-related problems during the next year and are asking the question, "What's going to happen next?" During a community meeting for residents at Fort Yates, counselors administered depression screenings to 28 individuals and distributed educational material to 80 people. Counselors also talked with 12 individuals during a community meeting in Churchs Ferry.
4. RESOURCES:
LOCAL: No change from previous reports.
STATE: No change from previous reports.
FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.
5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: Three Long Term Recovery Teams have been helping disaster victims find resources and have been addressing unmet needs. The Family Interfaith Rural Support Team (FIRST) works in Renville, Bottineau, Rolette and McHenry Counties. Helping and Support (HandS) assists disaster victims in Benson, Ramsey, Eddy and Nelson Counties, and Sakakawea Interagency/Faith Team (SIFT) members work with McLean and Sheridan residents.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The recently approved Secretary of Agriculture declaration is generating activity in the state. This declaration covers the entire state of North Dakota, unlike the Presidential Declaration that includes 42 counties and four tribal reservations. This declaration will allow businesses affected by the downturn in farming and ranching to apply for economic assistance via the SBA. In the case

of North Dakota, almost all businesses would be eligible because they rely primarily on the agriculture community to sustain their economic activity.

Program Updates for FEMA 1279-DR-ND

The state Public Assistance Program has paid \$20.2 million in initial project worksheets to eligible applicants. The program has received a total of 293 applications.

North Dakota Job Service has received 6,800 claims for Disaster Unemployment Assistance. As of October 21, \$10,835,829 in benefits has been paid to farmers, ranchers, farm workers, migrant workers and other self-employed individuals who have lost income because of disaster conditions.

Of the 12,321 North Dakotans who registered for assistance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) teleregistration center, 7,595 are eligible for the Disaster Housing Program. To date, FEMA has paid \$17,964,714 in benefits. Of that amount, \$7,456,646 have been paid for expanded habitability measures designed to mitigate future flood damages. Those measures include interior drain systems, sump pumps, gutters and downspouts, basement fills and land sloping work.

The Individual and Family Grant Program, administered by North Dakota Emergency Management, has received 6,409 applications and has approved \$1,114,394 in benefits. Of that amount, \$181,579 has been designated for mitigation measures to include installation of dry wells designed to alleviate ground water pressure and construction of mechanical rooms for homes where basement fills have occurred.

The Small Business Administration has issued 10,089 applications to disaster victims and has administered \$9,536,100 in loans as of October 22. Of that amount, \$6,865,900, or 72 percent, has been designated for expanded habitability measures.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: Assistance has been provided, as indicated in this report and previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: FEMA, SBA, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), American Red Cross, consulting engineers and members of the N.D. Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD).
9. OTHER: Situation Reports published by North Dakota Emergency Management are posted on the Division's internet home page. The address is:
<http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director